



## A HISTORICAL STUDY OF SHAKTI CULTS IN KALABURAGI DISTRICT

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### 1) CHANDRALA PARAMESHWARI TEMPLE

Chandrala Parameshwari is the presiding deity of Sannathi in Karnataka. Chaitra Krishna Panchami is considered to be most auspicious for worshipping Devi. This year Rathotsavam will be held on Thursday, the 5th April 2018. Have darshan of vintage picture of Devi and chant Ashtottara shatanama of Devi as referred in Markandeya Purana. Shree Lakshmi Chandralamba Ashtottara Shatanaama Stotra Chandralamba Mahamaya Shambhaavi Shankhadhaarini. Aanandi Paramaanandi Kaalaraatri Kapaalini...



Sannati or Sannathi is a small village, located on the banks of the Bhima River in Chitapur taluk of Gulbarga District of Northern Karnataka. It is famous for the Chandrala Parameshwari Temple and the excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India in the 1986.

In 1986, when the roof of the Kali temple in Chandralamba temple complex collapsed, it destroyed the idol. However it revealed four Ashokan edicts on the floor and foundation stone of the temple. These edicts were written in the Prakrit language and Brahmi script and one of them was used as foundation of the pedestal for the Kali idol. During subsequent excavations by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the State Archaeology Department, tablets, sculptures, and other terracotta items were found, and most importantly numerous limestone panels of sculptures of the ruined 'Maha Stupa' or Adholoka Maha Chaitya (the Great Stupa of the Netherworld) were found. Archaeologists believe that Ranamandal was a fortified area, spread over 86 hectares (210 acres; 0.33 sq mi), out of which only 2 acres had been excavated by 2009. Clay pendants , black polished pottery, Satavahana and pre-Satavahana coins, ornaments made of copper, ivory and iron, a township with paved pathways, houses, and limestone flooring have been found. Many excavated items were later shifted to Gulbarga Museum.

One of the stones - the only known example of its type - is of Emperor Asoka (r. 274–232 BC) seated on his throne. It is probably the only surviving image of the emperor.

In 2010, ASI along with Sannati Development Authority deputed Manipal Institute of Technology to prepare a blueprint for restoration and reconstruction of the stupas.

### MYTHOLOGICAL REFERENCES

Sannati is the place where the Paduka of Goddess Chandrala Parmeshwari - Incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi - was brought. The Goddess came up to the banks of River Bhima at Hongunti, to save her devotee Chandravadani, wife of a rishi, held captive by the local king Setu Raya. Hingulambika temple is situated at Hongunti near Shabad town. The Goddess sent her Paduka from which emerged 5 bumblebees, which killed the evil king Setu Raya by drowning him in the Bhima River. Sannati Chandrala Parmeshwari and Hongunti Hingulambika are family deity of many Brahmin and Hindus families of Karnataka, Maharashtra, AP etc.

Sannati is also the place where Rishi Markandeya meditated and composed parts of Markandeya Upanishad. A small temple has been renovated at the place where he is believed to have sat in meditation. It is said that Rishi Markandeya predates the arrival of Paduka of Chandrala Parmeshwari.

The government has asked the Archaeological Survey of India to take up further exploration of the Ranamandal area to know the history of the region and its connection with Buddhism.

A king called Rajasena had a daughter Chandrala. The king began searching for a groom for his beloved daughter and organised a 'Swayamvara' for this purpose. The princes had to see the reflection of a metal pillar in the water and bring it down to win the Swayamvara of the princess. No prince was willing to take up such a challenging task and the king was in despair.

Some days later, a goddess appeared in his dream and told him that, the one who will wed his daughter will come to the town garden the next day. The next day, Narayana Muni, a handsome young man came to the town and was given a grand welcome by the king who requested him to take up the task and marry his daughter. Though he initially declined, he later agreed.

The couple got married and were living on the banks of the Bheema river, when the eyes of an evil king fell on the beautiful Chandrala. Trying to escape from the clutches of the king, Chandrala vowed to do penance for 40 days. She then went to the Someshwara temple and sought refuge, from the evil king.

Meanwhile, Narayana Muni, seeing that his wife was missing and guessing that the king must be behind her disappearance, vowed to set things right. He went to the Hingula Peeth near Kashmir and prayed to Goddess Hingulambika.

The Goddess promised to help him but on one condition, that he should walk in front of her, showing her the way, but should not turn back and look at her until he reaches his town. Narayana Muni agreed. The clanking of the Goddess' anklets was his only clue to know whether she was following him or not. But at the banks of the river Bheema, the twittering of the birds and the swishing of the river dominated the anklet sound and he inadvertently turned around. Immediately, the Goddess became a stone and told him that she would stay there. She also gave him a coconut telling him that there were bees inside it and he should take it to the evil king. When the coconut was broken at the king's palace, several thousands of bees came out of it and attacked the king who jumped into the river and drowned.

Even today, there is a 'Seethuraja Maduvu' near the river. Chandrala became one with the God even before she could complete her penance. In memory of this legend, every year, the Chandrala Parmeshwari Devi Mahotsav is held during the Navaratri festival. The temple has a history of nearly 800 years and was renovated in 1985.

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Sannati is also the place where sage Markandeya meditated and also composed parts of Markandeya Upanishad. A small temple has been renovated at the place where Markandeya is believed to have sat in meditation. It is said that sage Markandeya predates the arrival of Paduka of Chandrala Parmeshwari.

Locally known as 'Sannati,' devotees come from all over the State, for a glimpse of this ancient temple, situated around 20 km from Nalavar.

## 2) Chithapura Nagavi Yallamma



Chittapur is a taluk and panchayat in Gulbarga district, Karnataka, India

The Town Municipal Council (TMC) Chittapur was constituted in 1952. It is situated on the main railway from Hyderabad to Mumbai. Chittapur town is located 50 km from Gulbarga district. It has a population of 29,674 as per census 2001.

It is famous for polished stones and toor dal.

The TMC has 23 wards and an equal number of councilors. Chittapur TMC stretches to an area of 17.45 km<sup>2</sup> Chittapur town has its own historic background of Nagavelambika Temple and Hajarat Chittavali shaha Darga.

There are ruined temples and mosques scattered all around this area probably belongs to Rashtrakoot Empire. Capital Malkhed of Rashtrakoot is located east of Chittapur about 14 km.

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Day 1 of our journey between Hyderabad and Dharwad; our plan was to stop at few historical spots of Gulbarga district and reach Bijapur by nightfall. We has visited Bijjanahalli to see the 800 shoes made for Basavanna by his disciple couple Haralayya and Kalyanamma. Then we spent few hours at Sedam to see Panchalingeshwara Gudi, Kottala Basaveshwara Gudi and Jain Basadi. Next on our list was Nagavi near

Chittapur. At Nagavi was the second ancient Hindu University. Though the place is hardly known, it has a long history. So we reach Chittapur town and head towards Nagavi. The historic spot is south of Chittapur town; its 10 minute drive. As you approach the ancient site, first thing you'll see is Shree Nagavelambika Yellamma Devasthanam on your right hand side.

Here's the temple gateway, this is the inner side; the outer side is pretty much similar. At the entrance are two open wells, both seem ancient. It was midday, not many visitors at the temple.



Looks like the structure was painted recently. This temple architecture is quite different. It seems more like a Muslim shrine.. Its a big four sided structure, with 3 open faces having graceful arches. The Garbhagudi has a narrow entrance facing North; one has to bend low to pass through. This must have been renovated during a Muslim ruler's time hence this architecture.



Opposite the shrine are three lamp pillars ~ Deepastambha. It seems like instead of one tall pillar, three smaller ones were created.



This is the open hall where pilgrims wait for their Darshan of the Devi. Below the arch is a small doorway of the Garbhagudi.

Inner dome of the open hall. Designer have beautifully transitioned from square to circle. This design can be seen in some of the ancient mosques and tombs of Gulbarga. Here ancient builders skill and present day artists' skill mingle. Old design covered in new paint. Lovely it is.

A shrine dedicated to Matangi.



Around the shrine are shelters- lodges for temple care-takers and pilgrims. I'm being candid here- the temple premises is untidy; dirty floors and holy trash lying all around. For some reason, even Saundatti Yellamma Devasthanam is also not clean. Wish temple care-takers serious note of the condition and take steps to educate pilgrims about cleanliness.

Talking about Muslim ruler's sponsored temple renovation, about 100 meters from the temple is an ancient Islamic tomb built of Shahabad stones. No idea who's tomb this is.

### 3) Gattaragi Bhagamma Devi.

Ghattaragi Bhagamma Temple, also popular as Bhagyamma and Bhagyavanti Temple, is one of the renowned temple in Gulbarga region of Karnataka. It is located at Ghattaragi village in Afzalpur taluk of Gulbarga district. It is situated near Sri Kshetra Ganagapur Sri Dattatreya Temple.



As per the legend of Ghattaragi Bhagamma Temple, after the collapse of Vijayanagara Kingdom, their presiding deity, Bhuvaneshwari has come to the banks of Bhima River by swimming through Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers.

The Goddess transformed herself into a Pillar and ordered her devotees in dreams to build a temple for her at Ghattaragi village at the banks of Bhima river.

The villagers brought the pillar and built a temple around it. The pillar brought a lot of fortune to the people hence she was named Bhagyavanthy (Fortune Giver). She proved to be Kamadenu and Kalparuksha to the villagers. So, in short she is the family deity of Vijayanagar Kings who flourished when they worshipped her and perished when ignored her. Today the temple is visited by many from all over the country and outside country. This is a place full of miracles and all your sincere prayers are answered. Miracles happen when you believe.

There is a unique ritual held in this temple. A man is hung from a cart at a height of 30 feet from his back with the help of a sharp hook, this is called 'Sidi\*'. people believe this helps them overcome the drought problem. Elders in the Nayaka community choose the man to undergo this exercise.

Makara Sankranti, Pushya Purnima, Magha Purnima, Shivaratri, Ugadi, Sri Rama Navami, Shravana Maasa, Navaratri Utsava and Kartika Maasa are the major festivals celebrated at Ghattaragi Bhagamma Temple.

#### 4) Honna Kiranagi Maragamma Devi.

Kiranagi is a village in the southern state of Karnataka, India. It is located in the Gulbarga taluk of Gulbarga district in Karnataka.

It is said that during the Indo-China war in 1962, the then Karnataka chief minister Veerendra Patil (1924-1997) visited Kirangi village in Gulbarga district in a Statewide campaign for raising funds for the government. Hearing about the cause, the villagers of Kirangi reacted with a surge of patriotism and mobilised more than 100 tolas of gold within an hour and handed over the donation to Patil. The chief minister was astounded by the prosperity of the village and the large-heartedness of the community. He immediately gave Kirangi a new name: Honna Kirangi (Honnu meaning gold).

Large tracts of land surrounding Honna Kirangi; acres and acres of rich, black soil seemed to touch the horizon. The beauty of Honna Kirangi lies in its colourful but sturdy buildings and hospitable people. At first glance, the visitor is struck by the varied colours on the walls of many residential buildings. Use of Shahabad stone slabs for both flooring and roofing adds its own charm. Thanks to the ideal weight, texture and colour, the stone lends grace and solidity to these rural homes. Even the streets are cobbled and in some places, Honna Kirangi could probably match the looks of a tiny European rural hamlet!. There are many striking features of Honna Kirangi's homes but the one which stands out is the ornate entrance doors and the pair of horses which adorn their sides. In the good old days, many homes had real, graceful horses which were not only status symbols but also means of transport.

Kiranagi has given its contribution to the fields of literature and painting too. There are two well known artists from this place Bassavaraj Musavalgi and Prof.V G Andani and a novelist Shreemanth M Yanagunti.

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